

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ALUMINUM IN OCTOBER 2006

Domestic primary aluminum production in October was 189,987 metric tons (t), according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The average daily production rate was 6,129 t, slightly higher than that of the previous month but 8% below the rate for October 2005. The monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot increased in October to \$1.241 per pound from \$1.170 per pound in September, according to Platts Metals Week. The American Metal Market buying price range for aluminum used beverage cans (UBCs) fluctuated during October but closed the month at a higher level than that at the end of September. The price range began the month at 77–79 cents per pound. On October 3, the price range increased to 79–81 cents per pound, and on October 17, it increased again to 80–81 cents per pound before falling to 77–79 cents per pound on October 24. On October 31, the price range increased to 81–83 cents per pound.

U.S. Trade

Total imports for consumption for the first 3 quarters of 2006 decreased slightly compared with those for the same period in 2005. Imports of semifabricated materials and imports of scrap increased 1% and 7%, respectively. These increases, however, were off set by a 4% decrease in imports of metal and alloys.

Canada remained the leading supplier of aluminum materials to the United States, supplying more than one-half of total U.S. imports in the first 9 months of the year, followed by Russia with 15%.

Total aluminum exports in the first 3 quarters of 2006 increased 26% compared with those for the first 9 months of 2005. Exports were higher in all three categories detailed in table 7 and were led by a 47% increase in exports of aluminum scrap. Exports of metal and alloys increased 10%, and exports of semifabricated material increased 7% compared with those for the same period in 2005. China, Canada, and Mexico, in descending order of shipments, were the major recipients of U.S. aluminum materials, accounting for 80% of total U.S. exports in the first 9 months of 2006.

Update

The monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot in November increased to \$1.272 per pound. The American Metal Market buying price range for aluminum UBCs increased during November. On November 7, the price range increased to 83–85 cents per pound, and on November 21, the price range increased a penny to 84–86 cents per pound. The price remained at this level through the end of the month.

TABLE 1
COMPONENTS OF ALUMINUM SUPPLY¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Primary production	Secondary recovery ²			Imports for consumption			Total new supply ³	Total stocks, end of period ⁴
		New	Old	Total	Metals and alloys, crude	Plates, sheets, bars, etc.	Total		
2005	2,481	1,930	1,060	2,990	3,660	1,190	4,850	10,300	1,430
2005:									
October	207	161	95	256	298	94	393	856	1,550
November	204	151	84	236	240	91	330	770	1,440
December	208	143	82	225	299	89	388	821	1,430
January-October	2,069	1,620	949	2,570	3,120	1,010	4,130	8,770	1,550
2006:									
January	197	168	89	257	348	97	445	898	1,470 ^r
February	179	161	84	244	247	87	333	757	1,480 ^r
March	198	168	92	259	289	104	393	850	1,460 ^r
April	190	160	88	248	353	103	456	894	1,480 ^r
May	197	161	89	250	318	106	424	870	1,430
June	189	162	92	254	298	109	407	849	1,430 ^r
July	192	165	92	256	249	111	360	808	1,450 ^r
August	185	166	109	275	315	111	426	887	1,430 ^r
September	183	159	87	246	289	102	391	819	1,480
October	190	161	79	240	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
January-October	1,900	1,630	901	2,530	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

^rRevised. NA Not available.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits, except "Primary production"; may not add to totals shown.

²Metallic recovery from purchased, tolled, or imported scrap, expanded for full coverage of industry.

³Primary production, secondary recovery, and imports for consumption.

⁴Inventory levels reflect total for both U.S. and Canadian producers; data from the Aluminum Association Inc.

TABLE 2
ESTIMATED FULL COVERAGE CONSUMPTION OF AND METALLIC RECOVERY FROM
PURCHASED NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Secondary smelters		Integrated aluminum companies		Independent mill fabricators		Foundries		Other consumers		Total	
	Con- sump- tion	Metal recovery	Con- sump- tion	Metal recovery	Con- sump- tion	Metal recovery	Con- sump- tion	Metal recovery	Con- sump- tion	Metal recovery	Con- sump- tion	Metal recovery
2005	1,700	1,310	815	725	926	867	90	80	10	9	3,540	2,990
2005:												
October	154	112	66	59	83	78	8	7	(2)	(2)	312	256
November	138	101	62	55	77	72	8	7	(2)	(2)	285	236
December	129	93	63	56	74	69	8	7	(2)	(2)	274	225
January-October	1,470	1,070	698	621	857	803	82	73	(2)	(2)	3,120	2,570
2006:												
January	135	100	76	68	87	81	8	7	(2)	(2)	306	257
February	131	96	78	70	76	71	8	7	(2)	(2)	293	244
March	141	103	81	73	82	77	8	7	(2)	(2)	312	259
April	135	97	80	72	77	72	8	7	(2)	(2)	300	248
May	138	100	65	58	90	84	8	7	(2)	(2)	301	250
June	138	100	74	66	86	81	8	7	(2)	(2)	307	254
July	136	99	76	68	88	82	8	7	(2)	(2)	308	256
August	167	126	71	64	83	78	8	7	(2)	(2)	330	275
September	135	99	73	65	80	75	8	7	(2)	(2)	296	246
October	130	94	69	62	82	77	8	7	(2)	(2)	289	240
January-October	1,390	1,010	743	666	831	778	80	70	5	5	3,040	2,530

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Less than ½ unit.

TABLE 3
CONSUMPTION OF AND RECOVERY FROM PURCHASED
NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP IN OCTOBER 2006¹

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
Secondary smelters	108,000	130,000	78,400	94,000
Integrated aluminum companies	68,800	68,800	61,700	61,700
Independent mill fabricators	68,200	81,900	64,200	77,000
Foundries	6,460	7,760	5,670	6,800
Other consumers	536	643	536	643
Total	252,000	289,000	210,000	240,000

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

TABLE 4
PURCHASED AND TOLL-TREATED ALUMINUM-BASE SCRAP AND SWEATED PIG IN OCTOBER 2006¹

(Metric tons)

	October				January-October ²	
	Stocks, opening	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed
New scrap:						
Extrusion	18,900	75,600	76,600	17,900	774,000	776,000
Can stock clippings	2,190 ^r	16,900	18,300	819	184,000	186,000
Other wrought sheet/clippings	4,330	22,800	22,500	4,630	219,000	218,000
Casting	1,810	8,420	7,670	2,570	80,000	79,500
Borings and turnings	2,350	10,800	9,790	3,400	111,000	111,000
Dross and skimmings	3,400	34,500	34,200	3,720	348,000	348,000
Total new scrap	33,000 ^r	169,000	169,000	33,000	1,720,000	1,720,000
Old scrap:						
Used castings	3,470	15,100	14,800	3,700	152,000	152,000
Used extrusion	426	1,390	1,390	426	12,700	12,700
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	2,030 ^r	51,700	51,700	2,070	578,000	577,000
Other wrought products	2,340	5,290	5,290	2,340	54,100	54,100
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	1,400	12,000	9,160	4,270	117,000	135,000
Total old scrap	9,670 ^r	85,500	82,300	12,800	914,000	931,000
Sweated pig	198	790	790	198	7,990	7,990
Total all classes	42,900 ^r	255,000	252,000	46,000	2,640,000	2,660,000

^rRevised.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes revised data from previous month(s).

³Includes data on imported aluminum-base scrap.

TABLE 5
ALUMINUM ALLOYS PRODUCED AT SECONDARY SMELTERS IN THE UNITED STATES FOR 2006^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

	October				January-October ³	
	Stocks, opening	Production	Net shipments	Stocks, closing	Production	Net shipments
Die-cast alloys:						
13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	2,950	1,480	1,550	2,870	14,400	14,300
380 and variations	3,420	14,900	15,400	2,940	157,000	159,000
Sand and permanent mold:						
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	1,150	1,720	1,710	1,170	17,100	17,000
No. 319 and variations	1,940	6,790	5,680	3,050	57,100	55,700
F-132 alloy and variations	688	1,350	1,310	728	16,300	16,500
Al-Zn alloys	314	186	180	320	2,160	2,130
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	41	24	24	41	241	241
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	283	411	411	283	4,110	4,110
Other ⁴	4,700	8,330	8,130	4,910	80,300	80,600
Wrought alloys:						
Extrusion billets	10,400	19,600	19,600	10,400	198,000	198,000
Total all alloys	25,900	54,800	54,000	26,700	547,000	548,000
Less:						
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	9,420	XX	XX	101,000	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	1,380	XX	XX	23,700	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	1,390	XX	XX	9,300	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap and sweated pig consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot ⁵	XX	42,600	XX	XX	413,000	XX

XX Not applicable.

¹Excludes integrated aluminum companies.

²Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

³Includes revised data from previous months.

⁴Includes alloys No. 12, Al-Mg, Al-Si-Cu-Ni, aluminum-base hardeners, variations of these alloys, plus other aluminum alloys.

⁵No allowance made for melt-loss of primary aluminum and alloying ingredients.

TABLE 6
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ALUMINUM IN SEPTEMBER 2006¹

(Metric tons)

Country	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	September	January-September	September	January-September	September	January-September	September	January-September
Argentina	10,200	46,700	12	109	--	--	10,200	46,800
Australia	1,520	42,000	2	132	455	793	1,980	42,900
Bahrain	4,580	61,800	335	10,200	--	--	4,910	72,000
Belgium	29	148	725	5,430	--	122	754	5,700
Brazil	9,600	108,000	4,190	23,500	--	634	13,800	132,000
Canada	152,000	1,490,000	41,000	405,000	29,000	259,000	222,000	2,150,000
China	5,660	40,500	14,100	122,000	--	3	19,800	163,000
France	58	588	235	3,720	19	74	312	4,380
Germany	556	4,540	11,200	95,300	21	227	11,700	100,000
Hungary	--	--	318	2,410	--	--	318	2,410
Italy	--	157	151	2,030	--	--	151	2,190
Japan	104	382	635	12,000	67	620	805	13,000
Korea, Republic of	19	219	381	2,460	40	195	439	2,870
Mexico	368	1,020	1,590	15,600	8,460	90,500	10,400	107,000
Netherlands	16	589	254	1,630	--	102	270	2,320
Norway	22	237	(2)	191	--	--	23	427
Russia	80,400	555,000	4,210	35,700	--	3,170	84,600	594,000
South Africa	2,270	66,600	5,800	41,800	--	--	8,070	108,000
Spain	10	132	142	1,020	--	--	151	1,150
Sweden	1,530	3,170	253	3,650	--	31	1,780	6,850
Switzerland	--	1,100	468	4,370	--	--	468	5,470
Tajikistan	--	25,700	--	--	--	--	--	25,700
United Arab Emirates	6,950	77,700	--	3	880	1,190	7,830	78,900
United Kingdom	1,330	31,800	435	4,540	--	1,460	1,770	37,800
Venezuela	9,260	114,000	1,170	13,100	301	2,160	10,700	130,000
Other	2,530	34,900	14,100	122,000	2,760	32,000	19,400	189,000
Total	289,000	2,710,000	102,000	929,000	42,000	392,000	433,000	4,030,000

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 7
U.S. EXPORTS OF ALUMINUM IN SEPTEMBER 2006¹

(Metric tons)

Country or territory	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	September	January-September	September	January-September	September	January-September	September	January-September
Australia	30	238	91	1,330	--	42	121	1,610
Belgium	145	1,080	370	5,230	--	309	515	6,620
Brazil	5	96	1,080	4,980	81	290	1,170	5,370
Canada	9,510	95,100	40,800	372,000	11,400	112,000	61,700	579,000
China	105	2,270	4,340	27,700	90,100	708,000	94,600	738,000
Czech Republic	--	(2)	3	118	--	--	3	118
Dominican Republic	(2)	83	34	252	--	40	34	375
France	--	70	891	9,810	--	22	891	9,900
Germany	65	388	659	8,120	5	221	730	8,730
Hong Kong	14	1,080	1,520	8,720	2,090	16,800	3,620	26,600
India	27	249	58	475	773	6,140	858	6,860
Israel	103	927	349	3,040	--	--	452	3,970
Italy	(2)	393	363	3,810	728	728	1,090	4,930
Japan	966	7,930	1,130	15,300	3,050	33,100	5,150	56,300
Korea, Republic of	14	678	1,090	10,600	13,600	109,000	14,700	121,000
Malaysia	--	43	582	3,140	126	1,990	708	5,160
Mexico	13,900	151,000	17,700	199,000	8,580	78,800	40,200	429,000
Netherlands	2	96	46	598	--	228	49	922
Russia	81	246	18	151	--	19	99	416
Saudi Arabia	--	3	1,800	23,600	--	(2)	1,800	23,600
Singapore	17	105	145	1,500	13	13	176	1,620
Spain	2	32	164	1,010	--	7	166	1,050
Sweden	--	1	33	112	--	--	33	112
Taiwan	1	255	1,100	7,430	3,490	42,300	4,590	50,000
Thailand	67	1,380	424	5,660	926	10,400	1,420	17,400
Ukraine	6	6	--	18	--	--	6	24
United Kingdom	57	285	1,580	14,100	60	434	1,690	14,900
Venezuela	--	21	231	1,700	--	1	231	1,730
Other	996	7,040	2,730	31,700	1,070	29,700	4,800	68,400
Total	26,100	271,000	79,200	761,000	136,000	1,150,000	242,000	2,180,000

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.